

# Road Opening To Commemorate Pioneers

16 Dec 1966

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Deseret News Staff Writer

When a \$22 million high speed freeway is opened Dec. 23 from the mouth of Parleys Canyon to Interstate Highway 15 at 2400 South and 2nd West, the feats of pioneers will be commemorated.

And the name of the man from whom Parleys Canyon takes its name — Parley P. Pratt — will be honored.

Elder Pratt, member of the Council of the Twelve, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day

Saints, reached Salt Lake Valley in the early fall of 1847 with the large second company of pioneers.

It was Elder Pratt who explored and opened a superior route into Salt Lake Valley.

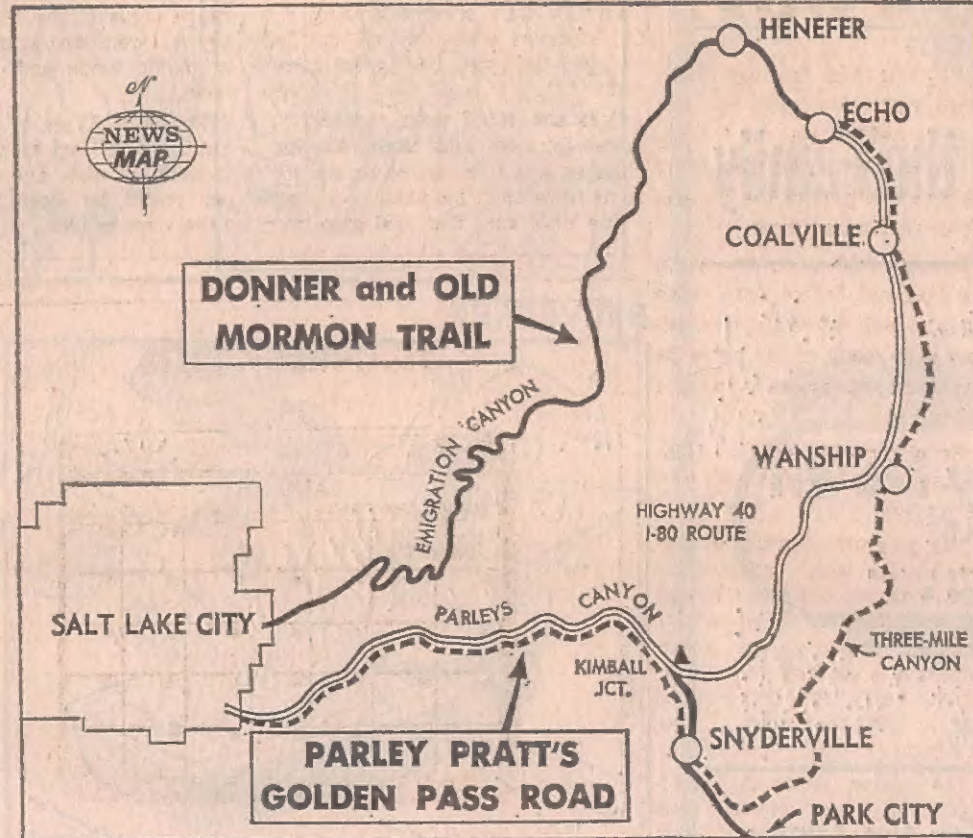
The ill-fated Donner Party of 1846, following directions of Lansford W. Hastings, had hacked its way through evergreen forests of Big Mountain Pass to avoid narrow defiles of what are now known as Parleys and Weber canyons.

From the site of Henefer, Weber Canyon, the Donners expended three weeks of superhuman efforts to push and pull their heavy wagons over 36 miles of mountainous grades and narrow canyons to reach Salt Lake Valley.

The next summer (1847) the Mormon Pioneers followed this trail over three mountain passes. They "sped" over the 36 miles in three days, arriving in time to irrigate and plow land and plant potatoes. Late that fall they harvested small seed potatoes which they planted the following spring. Their second harvest was much better.

Elder Pratt recognized that the steep and twisting Donner-Mormon Trail exacted too much from travelers. To descend the west face of Big Mountain, for instance, wagon wheels had to be chain-locked to avoid runaways down this almost precipitous slope.

Accordingly, he explored and later opened the Golden Pass" road which established the route to be followed successively by



Map indicates route of new and old highways in Parleys Canyon. Mormon immigration of 1862 took "Golden Pass" road, established Interstate 80 route.



Parley P. Pratt  
... he tamed canyon

the Overland Stage, the first automobile road and now Interstate Highway 80.

In June, 1848 he explored this route and recommended to the High Council that it appoint two or three men to make a more thorough exploration.

The High Council appointed Elder Pratt, John Van Cott and

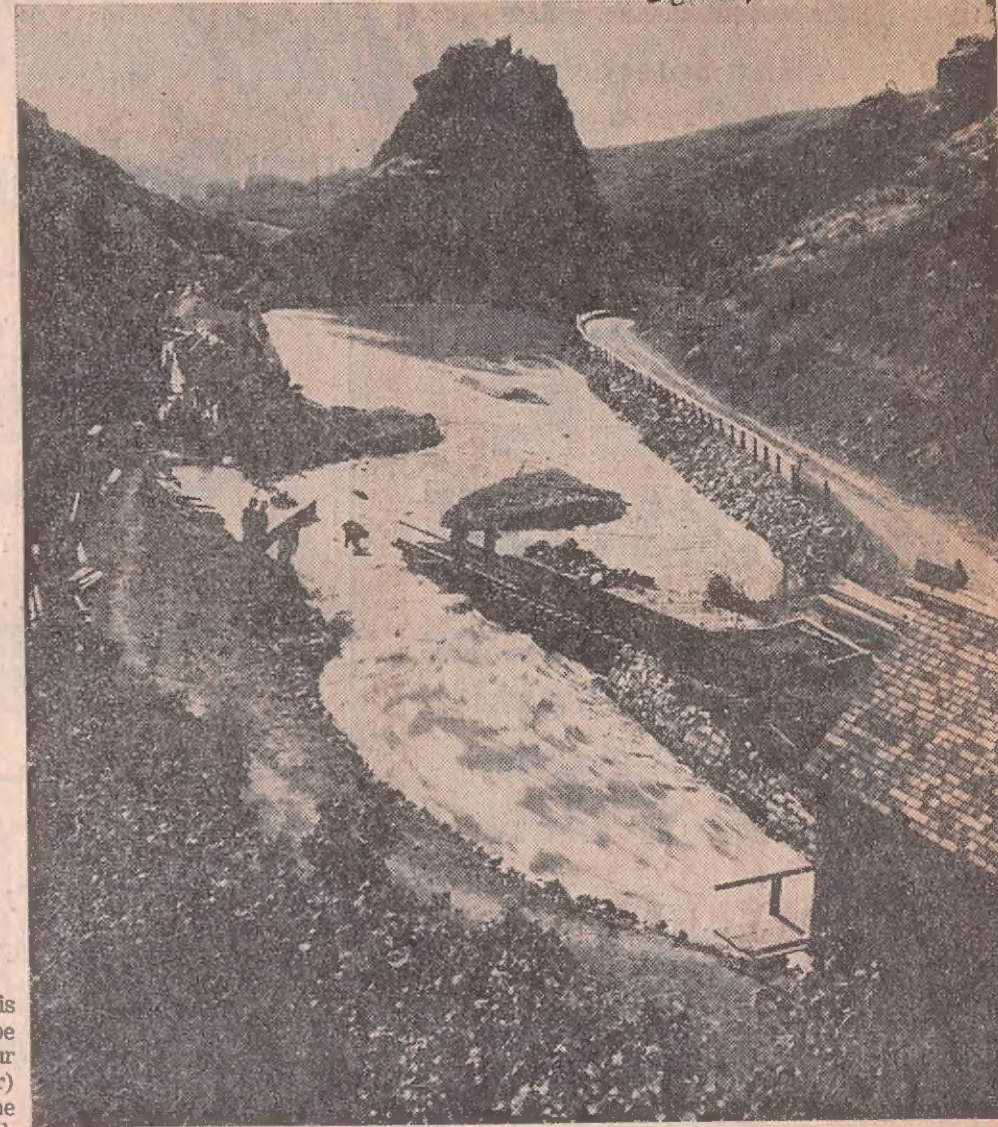
Daniel Spencer to do this work. They left the valley July 3, 1848 and spent three days covering the route.

In the written report they gave to the High Council, they estimated that a good wagon road could be built for \$800 "and thus dispense with the mountain (Big Mountain) over

which the road now runs."

The route, they reported, is "the only practical pass to be found for a good road from our city to the Weaver (Weber) River." It "abounds in fine streams, beautiful grassy meadows (one of which they named Parleys Park) and a full supply

See ROAD on Page B-8



Old photograph shows narrowness of Parleys Canyon just east of Suicide Rock. Railroad, reservoir and old, narrow road are no longer in existence.





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## Christmas

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"Well whattaya know! It's starting to warm  
up all of a sudden!"

### Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1-Pueblo Indian hut
- 6-Flaming
- 11-Girl's name
- 13-Makes amends
- 14-Bone
- 15-More massive
- 17-Indefinite article
- 18-Insert egg

#### 3-Preposition

- 4-Marsh
- 5-Is mistaken
- 6-The sweetsop
- 7-Preposition
- 8-Preposition
- 9-Harvested
- 10-Slaves
- 12-Lampreys
- 13-Affix
- 16-River islands

#### Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

R	A	A	D	B	A	H	C	L	A	M
A	N	N	A	I	C	Y	H	O	N	E
S	T	A	N	R	E	S	T	O	R	E
H	A	L	T	E	D	T	E	R	E	T
Y	E	S	P	E	A	T				
R	E	S	S	P	A	R	K	L	E	R
E	N	T	E	U	R	I	E	C	H	O
E	S	S	E	N	T	I	A	L	S	O
R	O	T	S	A	L	T				
A	L	P	I	N	E	I	D	E	A	L
C	A	R	E	E	R	E	D	E	T	U
R	I	D	S	E	L	L	R	I	C	A
E	R	A	T	D	I	E	S	C	A	N

### Emmy Lou

By Marty Links



"Besides a surprise party with just only boys, Taffy, what else would you like for your birthday?"